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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,946	04/30/2001	Patrick L. Coleman	56548USA8A.002	3318

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EXAMINER

TARAZANO, DONALD LAWRENCE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1773

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,946

Applicant(s)

COLEMAN ET AL.

Examiner

D. Lawrence Tarazano

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-9,23,24 and 26-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1773

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bourdelais et al. (6,329,113).
2. Bourdelais et al. teach a sheet comprising a heat shrinkable layer, a strength layer, and an image-receiving layer.
 - a. The heat shrinkable layer shrinks to a small degree during the processing of the structure (column 8).
 - b. The strength layer, which is coated on the heat shrinkable, comprises (vinylbenzyl) trimethylammonium chloride (column 16, lines 21+).

Art Unit: 1773

- c. Over top of the strength layer is a hydroxy cellulose layer (column 16, lines 29+), in which hydroxy cellulose is a polysaccharide.
3. Regarding the thickness of the layers, based on the coating weights (column 16), and the thickness of the DRL cited on (column 15, lines 6+), it would appear that the layer would have the claimed thickness.
4. Regarding the claimed "mask layer", additional layers may be present in the structure and one of them would correspond to the claimed "mask" layer.
5. Regarding the claimed topography, the films are shrunk to some degree so they would have (x, y, z) surface area (topographical) bigger than (x, y) surface area (projected) as claimed.
6. Claims 1-9, 23-24, 26-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fehervari et al (6,403,278) with additional evidence provided by Kim et al. (5,593,809) which is incorporated by reference.
7. Kim et al. teach a multilayer structure used in the photographic arts, in which the image-receiving layer comprises a cross-linked polymer. A material such as ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer or polyvinyl alcohol, which has been cross-linked, by a material such as borate is a hydrogel as claimed (5,593,809, column 9).
8. The strip coat material (6,403,278) contains ammonium functionalized acrylic monomers as claimed (column 6).
9. Regarding the attachment of proteins or polysaccharides to the surface layer. It is believed that the processing composition (34) contains gelatin, but there are so many gelatin

Art Unit: 1773

materials and cellulose materials used in the formation of the structure some would come in contact with the strip coat material and become attached.

10. Regarding the claimed surface topography. The examiner takes the position that any surface would meet the claimed limitation. The projections are merely the (x, y) surface area. Since all surfaces have some degree of variation, a measurement including the (z) component for any (x, y, z) (topographical surface area) measurement would necessarily be greater than the (x, y) surface area. The applicants' preamble is merely a statement of fact, not a patentable distinction.

Double Patenting

11. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

12. Claims 32-34 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-42 of U.S. Patent Application Number 09/860,944. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because: As discussed above, the preamble describing the topography is a

Art Unit: 1773

statement of fact, it does not provide patentable distinction over any film. (US 20030049435A1). This is a provisional rejection.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 23-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

14. Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art fails to teach azlactone functional hydrogel layers in combination with the claimed ionic layers.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The examiner has cited additional references on the PTO-892 relating to the formation of active surfaces.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. Lawrence Tarazano whose telephone number is (703)-308-2379. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 6:00 (off every other Friday).

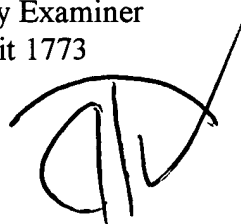
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul J Thibodeau can be reached on (703)-309-2367. The fax phone numbers for the

Art Unit: 1773

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9310 for regular communications and (703)-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0661.

D. Lawrence Tarazano
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1773

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DLT' with a large loop and a diagonal stroke.

dlt
June 16, 2003